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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/591,437	06/09/2000	Jiuzhi Xue	DIS-P016	3249

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EXAMINER

DUONG, THOI V

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 10/01/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/591,437

Applicant(s)

XUE ET AL.

Examiner

Thoi V Duong

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 June 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 ~~is~~ are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 ~~is~~ are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>6</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

3. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Liu et al. (USPN 6,141,676, 4,778,259).

As shown in Figs. 1 and 4, Liu discloses an optical device including a ferroelectric liquid crystal material 16, said optical device comprising:

a first substrate 10 and a second substrate 11;

a first alignment treatment 14 applied to a surface of the first substrate, said first alignment treatment being intended to induce an orientation of at least a portion of said ferroelectric liquid crystal material along a first alignment direction 25 and with a first pretilt angle "alpha1" with respect to a plane parallel to said first substrate;

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a second alignment treatment 15 applied to a surface of the second substrate, said second alignment treatment being intended to induce an orientation of at least another portion of said ferroelectric liquid crystal material along a second alignment direction 26 and with a second pretilt angle "alpha2" with respect to a plane parallel to said second substrate),

wherein the first substrate is located with respect to the second substrate in such a way that the surfaces of the first and second substrates onto which the first and second alignment treatments were applied, respectively, are spaced apart, generally parallel and facing each other and a projection of the first alignment direction onto the treated surface of the first substrate makes a non-zero angle "omega" with respect to a projection of the second alignment direction onto the treated surface of the first substrate such that, said ferroelectric liquid crystal material being injected between the first and second substrates, the optical device is free of chevron structures without a need to otherwise apply an additional treatment to the optical device (col. 4, lines 23-46),

wherein said ferroelectric liquid crystal material has a phase sequence of Isotropic - Nematic - Smectic A - Smectic C* - Crystalline states (col. 3, lines 45-49);

wherein said ferroelectric liquid crystal material has a cone angle "theta", said non-zero angle "omega" has a predetermined value such that "omega" ≥ 2 (theta) and "omega" $\neq 180$ degrees (col. 4, lines 53-60),

wherein said first and second alignment treatments are specifically chosen so as to specifically induce pretilt angles of "alpha1" and "alpha2" respectively,

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wherein said first alignment treatment includes a coating of a selected alignment material, said coating being applied, cured and treated so as to specifically induce the pretilt angle of "alpha1" (col. 3, lines 31-45),

wherein said second alignment treatment includes a coating of another selected alignment material, said coating being applied, cured and treated so as to specifically induce the pretilt angle of "alpha2" (col. 3, lines 31-45),

wherein said first and second alignment treatments are generally identical (col. 3, lines 31-45),

wherein each of said pretilt angles is at most 10 degrees (col. 8, lines 36-44), and


wherein said first and second alignment treatments provide strong molecular anchoring of at least portions of the ferroelectric liquid crystal material located immediately adjacent to the treated surfaces of the first and second substrates (col. 4, lines 47-50).

Finally, as shown in Figs. 10A and 10B, an optical device of Liu further comprises a light input 1018 directed at said optical device in such a way that the optical device in turn produces a light output of a particular optical state; and means 1022 for electrically addressing said optical device in such a way that the particular optical state of the light output is continuously variable between a minimum optical state and a maximum optical state, wherein an optical retardance of the optical device remains generally constant during said continuous variation of the optical state of the light output (col. 5 line 1 through col. 6 line 12).

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Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thoi V. Duong whose telephone number is (703) 308-3171. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Thoi Duong 

09/26/2002



William L. Sikes
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